

RAE DROPS OUT OF LEADERSHIP RACE, PG 6

Celebrity pg 18

Rumours swirl over Twain's escort



The world's largest global newspaper

metro

Sports pg 11

Petitclerc wins top Canadian athlete award



HALIFAX • WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2008

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No charges yet in Melvin shooting

INVESTIGATION Police still haven't laid any charges in last Thursday night's shooting of Jimmy Melvin, Jr.

After the Ridgevalley Road shooting, police took four people into custody. They later released three, and kept one man in custody for a parole violation.

The incident is believed to be part of a drug war that has led to three shootings since mid-November.

METRO HALIFAX

Entertainment pg 17



Dear Santa for kids of all ages

Travel pg 15

Tips on travel writing biz

Automotive pg 13



Mazda3 spirit alive and well

Entertainment pg 16

Smith shy with love scenes



Dan English, left, chief administrative officer for the Halifax Regional Municipality, and Halifax Regional Police Chief Frank Beazley answer questions at a technical briefing on HRM's hiring and recruitment practices yesterday at city hall.

'Appearance of conflict'

Review finds concerns with polygraph handling

PAUL MCLEOD
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Allowing off-duty police to run polygraph tests for the force may be a conflict of interest, say officials, but the controversial tests themselves will not change.

Applicants to police and fire departments must undergo polygraph screenings that include embarrassing questions about having sex with animals.

The tests were contracted out to Integrity Personnel Screening, a company owned by two Halifax po-

lice officers. It never went through a public tendering process and many saw the force paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to off-duty officers as a conflict of interest.

Now a review by Halifax chief administrative officer Dan English says those fears are warranted.

"We are concerned with conflict of interest, whether real or perceived. In this case, there is the appearance of a conflict and we take this very seriously," said English.

The officers had been doing the job for a decade until uproar over the invasive questions broke this Octo-

Questions remain

- The touchy questions, however, won't change. English said the polygraph tests were standard across the country and are necessary to weed out inappropriate candidates.

ber. Police Chief Frank Beazley said the force broke off its contract with Integrity in October before the criticisms began.

But Mayor Peter Kelly told Metro in November he moved the polygraphs in-house on Nov. 5, after news reports on the tests.

Either way, the tests will be done by the police force until next March. Then the municipality will put out a public call for companies to run the screenings.

Beazley said he will review the report and may launch a police investigation into whether the contract was a conflict of interest.

"As a result of this review, I can express my full faith and confidence in our recruitment practices," said English. "In terms of the 1,200-and-some candidates, we've only had one complaint, so I'm not sure where the issue is."

Market falls on admission of recession

ECONOMY Toronto's main stock index fell yesterday as the Bank of Canada's acknowledgment that the country is entering a recession hit heavily weighted financial shares, while lower oil prices weighed on some energy stocks.

In a statement that accompanied its bigger-than-expected three-quarters of a percentage point interest-rate cut, the central bank declared for the first time that Canada is now entering a recession.

The comments managed to sideswipe shares of Canadian banks and insurers given their close link to the economy, which sent the financial index down 5.34 per cent and stripped it of all the gains recorded in the previous session.

The slide followed the market's 450-point rally on Monday and extended a pattern that has been firmly in place for months, where big gains are almost always followed by triple-digit losses.

Another drag weighing on investor sentiment was ongoing Canadian political upheaval after Parliament was suspended last week until late January, and the Liberal Party choosing its next leader.

The uncertainty in the political landscape does little to entice foreign investors to snap up Canadian equities which, along with most other equity markets, have been under pressure with concerns about a global slowdown.

MORE COVERAGE PAGE 10

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LEVIAN

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DIAMOND CENTRES



Think you're living green? StatsCan says households were directly or indirectly responsible for almost half of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions in 2004. A third of our household greenhouse gas emissions came from our cars and home-heating fuel — emissions from our vehicles went up 29 per cent between 1990 and 2004. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local



Donating holiday cheer

Want to donate a little holiday cheer to patients at the IWK this year? The hospital will accept new and unwrapped toys until Dec. 18. The hospital suggests baby toys, stuffed animals, books, Play-Doh and blocks for kids, or scrapbook kits and MP3 players for teens.

METRO HALIFAX

\$6M in hash found at port

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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More than \$6 million in hash was discovered in the false bottom of a maritime container in Halifax.

Canadian Border Services Agency made the discovery in March but held off on announcing it because the RCMP asked them to keep it quiet.

Alonzo MacNeil, chief of marine operations for the CBSA, said the RCMP made a couple of arrests in the weeks after the drugs were discovered, but they wanted to pursue other leads in the case.

"They requested the information not be made public until the investigation was completed."

The drugs were destined for Montreal and RCMP there made two arrests.



Canada Border Services Agency officers found 320 kilograms of hash in the false bottom of a marine container bound for Montreal in March. RCMP recently wrapped up its investigation and the find was made public.

Two people were charged with importing a controlled substance and will face trials in 2009.

The 320 kilograms of hash with a street value of \$6.4 million was found in a

container from Morocco filled with crockery and olive oil.

Officers look at the transaction information for all the containers coming into the Halifax port

and select which ones they think should be searched.

"The X-ray noted an abnormality in the floor of the crate. When the officer removed the floor, they discovered a false floor," he said.

It's not the most sophisticated attempt to smuggle drugs into the country, MacNeil added.

"If we get into our examination facility, I'm pretty confident if there's anything there, we'll find it. The challenge is to pick the needle in the haystack."

It's a significant find, but not the biggest stash of drugs they've found, MacNeil said.

It's the second seizure of the year in the Port of Halifax. The tally so far is 347 kilograms of illegal drugs worth \$17.4 million on the street.

Everyone should pay for transit: Tax report

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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CITY COUNCIL Everyone should pay for transit — that's the idea behind a new report on taxes.

A report considered by city council yesterday says the current criteria for who is taxed for transit are "weak and inconsistent."

Right now, taxpayers within the urban core pay for transit, and if transit is installed in communities outside the core, then that community has to pay for that particular line. It doesn't work well for a couple of reasons.

Council

- The idea before council is that everyone in HRM should pay for MetroLink, Rural Express Transit and Ferries because everyone benefits from it.

First, there are about 5,000 houses in the urban core that are more than a kilometre away from a transit stop. The report states some of those taxpayers feel they shouldn't have to pay for transit. On the other end, there are roughly 2,000 taxpayers outside the urban core who use transit and may not be paying for it.

Then there are the smaller communities who want transit but can't afford it. "The risk for the organization as a whole is that weaker transit service will lead to more cars on the road and hence expanded road costs," the report states.

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Halifax Regional Municipality is one of Atlantic Canada's largest and most diverse employers. We offer a wide array of Municipal Government careers, as well as short term employment opportunities, including positions in Administration, Community and Municipal Planning, Transit, Works and Transportation, Public Safety, Recreation and Waste Resource Management. Details about HRM and the many services we provide for our community can be found at our web site.

If you are seeking employment with HRM, we invite you to consider one of the following opportunities:

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For a full job description and position requirements, visit the HRM web site at www.halifax.ca.

If you have the talent, experience, and energy to bring to this position - HRM wants to talk with you about your future.

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A complete list of current employment opportunities, as well as detailed job descriptions and application instructions are available on HRM's web site at: www.halifax.ca. Follow the links to Career Opportunities.

As well, this information is available at the following HRM Customer Service Centres:

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Lower Sackville, NS

Alderney Gate
40 Alderney Gate, 2nd Floor
Dartmouth, NS

Cole Harbour Place
51 Forest Hills Parkway
2nd Floor, Cole Hbr., NS

Scotia Square
Lower Mall
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Halifax, NS

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6960 Mumford Road
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Volunteers At a Turning Point



Scott Congdon, left, and Bob Miller help deliver new clothing and supplies to the Metro Turning Point shelter last night. Around 35 volunteers visited seven homeless shelters around the HRM as part of the seventh annual Angels in the Night program which delivered more than \$250,000 in goods to shelters in 11 cities across Canada.

News in brief

CORRECTION The Muslim community is short \$500,000 to finish a structure on the Ummah Masjid mosque and community centre on Chebucto Road. Incorrect information appeared in yesterday's Metro.

AUTO Recent statistics indicate auto sales are up about six per cent in Nova Scotia. While numbers vary locally, the president of the Cumberland County Auto Dealers Association

says sales are holding their own mainly because of customer loyalty.

TAXES Annapolis Royal Mayor Phil Roberts says the town will take a major hit this Christmas. The town is poised to lose \$735,000 in annual tax revenues because the value of the tidal power plant is being downgraded from \$41.5 million to \$9 million at the end of this year. **METRO HALIFAX**

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Read From Kennedys to Bidens, nepotism thrives in U.S. politics at metronews.ca/world.

Video Jon Stewart tackles Ottawa's political showdown at metronews.ca/canada.



Got some food or cash you want to donate?

Take it to the CBC building on South Park Street for CBC's annual Feed Nova Scotia Day this Friday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can also donate at the Halifax Ferry Terminal from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. **METRO HALIFAX**

Students could cash in on recession

KAMIA CREELMAN
for Metro Halifax

Can those struggling to pay back student loans cash in on the recession?

The Bank of Canada slashed its interest rate yesterday to the lowest it's been in 50 years, and officially declared Canada in a recession.

But this might be good news for those with hefty

student loans.

"Any decline in prime rate is good for students who are currently paying back loans," said Dan Harrison of Nova Scotia's Department of Education.

Students could reap long-term benefits of the recession, Harrison said.

With lower interest rates and higher education, they could strength-

"Any decline in prime rate is good for students who are currently paying back loans."

Dan Harrison

en the future labour force by filling it with skilled workers.

"Loan holders are in a good position," said Marina Adshade, an economist at Dalhousie University.

Students have seen a

drop of 2.75 per cent in loan interest payments this year. "If they were paying 8.75 per cent last January, they are paying six per cent now," Adshade said.

Dalhousie student Ag-

nieszka Kubow, 23, thinks the lower interest rates are enticing.

"Maybe I'll look into getting a loan," she said, instead of extending her student line of credit.

James Wells, 20, a student at King's College, is wary of student loans. "They're almost impossible to pay off," he said.

But with the financial strain the recession is putting on his parents, he

may not have a choice but to apply.

"I am looking for ways to pay for school," he said. "Maybe tree-planting."

Wells may be smart to look for a job rather than a loan. Money is more easily flowing into than out of the bank these days.

"It's a good time to be paying back student loans," Adshade said.

"But it's much harder to get one right now."

Dog-law report rejected before attack: Chief

REPORT Westville Police Chief Don Husscher says he's recommended a provincial law that would help control dogs, but his 2006 report was ignored.

Husscher spoke yesterday after Stellarton police shot a bulldog that attacked two women and a child Monday.

The child was taken to the IWK Health Centre for plastic surgery to fix his serious head and facial injuries.

It's believed the child's eight-year-old friend helped distract the dog long enough for the women to rescue him.

Husscher said there was a rash of dog attacks in 2006 in Westville, prompting him to write a report recommending a drastic increase in fines for animal infractions to force owners to deal with their aggressive animals.

He suggested cities and towns keep a database of all dogs within their boundaries and that "beware of dog" signs be banned.

The report said aggressive dogs should be declared vicious, with restrictions on their ownership.

His report went to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, he said, but was never adopted.

TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA

ShareYourViews

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100 candles Shopping reprieve



Cellist Christoph Both performs with Sanctuary and the singers of the Togni Consort during the annual Concert of 100 Candles at the Cathedral Church of All Saints last night. Tickets are still available for tonight's 8 p.m. performance of contemplative Christmas music.

News in brief

FISHING If the catches hold up, this lobster season should be slightly profitable, but not sustainable says Rick Clattenburg, captain of Ace of Spades out of Moose Harbour in Queens Co. Clattenburg said last week fishermen in the lobster-fishing area that includes Queens

County didn't tie up their boats because of simple economics. "It's affecting everybody pretty much the same. It's just affecting Yarmouth and Shelburne counties ... more because their licences cost more and ... their payments are higher."

METRO HALIFAX

O tannenbaum is secretly seeking its revenge...

JENNIFER TAPLIN
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Sure, we cut them down and throw shiny things on them, but Christmas trees will have their revenge.

Treevenge, a 15-minute horror movie by local filmmaker Jason Eisener, could be Santa Claus' worst nightmare.

He said the trees get their revenge in the most brutal ways possible.

"By throwing the stars on the top of their heads at family members," he said, giving one example.

"It's almost in the style of Evil Dead 2, where there's lots of violence, but it's like in a comic book."

It will be the only

Nova Scotian movie shown at this year's Sundance Film Festival. The schedule for the January film fest isn't firm yet, but Treevenge is expected to be paired with a feature-length film from Norway called Dead Snow.

The movie, shot in high definition, has a budget of a couple thousand dollars straight from Eisener and producer Rob Cotterill's pockets.

Besides getting a showing at Sundance, Treevenge has al-

ready racked up more than a few accolades:

- Audience award for best short film at the New York City Horror Film Fest;
- Best local film from The Coast magazine;
- Audience award for best hort film at Toronto After Dark Festival;
- Audience award for best hort film at Fantasia Film Festival (Montreal);
- Best editing at the Atlantic Film Festival
- Best short film at the Fantastic Fest Online (Austin, Tex.)

Not bad for a film Eisener "just banged out" while he was working on pre-production of his Hobo With a Shotgun feature film.

Could the innocent-looking Christmas tree in Halifax's Grand Parade, left, be secretly plotting revenge? Let's hope not.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Teachers want mediator for contract talks

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After 17 negotiation sessions, the province's public school teachers aren't much closer to a contract.

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union, representing about 10,000 teachers, said it's requested a conciliator from the Department of Labour to step in.

"Our negotiating com-

mittee is of the opinion that significant progress towards a collective agreement cannot be made without the services of a conciliation officer," said union president Alexis Allen in a statement yesterday.

The union said there is a "media blackout" on the negotiations, so details regarding sticking points are not available to the public. Contract talks started in April.

"Significant progress ... cannot be made without the services of a conciliation officer."

Alexis Allen

Once appointed, the conciliation officer has 14 days to meet with both sides and will report back to the minister of labour.

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Arm view protected

PAUL MCLEOD
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The Halifax Harbour sightlines have been a valuable tool for heritage activists and a thorn in the side of some developers.

Yesterday, council took a step toward maintaining sightlines, but this time in the Northwest Arm. The sightlines would prevent anything from blocking certain viewpoints.

"It's a beautiful spot and to me it's just as im-

portant as protecting views in downtown, the harbour and Citadel Hill," said Purcell's Cove-Arm-dale Coun. Linda Mosher. Mosher said everything from pedways to signs to new trees could threaten the view.

Mosher proposed a motion to have HRM staff develop plans for new sightlines for the Arm. Council approved the motion unanimously, meaning HRM staff will bring a report back to council for a vote.



Coun. Linda Mosher wants to ensure that the view of the Northwest Arm, pictured here yesterday, remains unobstructed.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX



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Metro Transit gets \$2.5M to expand bus services

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BUDGET HRM will see more and newer buses after council approved an influx of millions of dollars to Metro Transit.

Metro Transit has long said it needed new buses to deal with overload on off-peak hours. But they can't handle more buses until a new bus garage is built. That won't be done until summer 2010, but citizens will now see improvements a year early.

Yesterday, Halifax Regional Council approved \$2.5 million for Metro Transit to replace six old buses with new models by next summer. The new buses can spend more time on the road, allowing for several potential improvements:

- The 1 Spring Garden bus could run every 10 minutes instead of 15 on

"My hope being that by purchasing some of these vehicles and addressing some of the deficiencies ... then we might have the opportunity to look at expansions of service to other areas."

Coun. Brad Johns

midday weekdays.

- The 66 Penhorn could go from every hour to every half hour on mid-day weekdays. It could also expand its route to Cobequid Terminal in the evenings.

- The 20 Herring Cove could expand into downtown Halifax on Saturdays.

- The 16 Parkland could start Saturday service.

Council voted unanimously for the move, saying it'll allow them to look at expansion next.

"My hope being that by purchasing some of these vehicles and addressing some of the deficiencies ...

then we might have the opportunity to look at expansions of service to other areas," said Middle and Upper Sackville-Lucasville Coun. Brad Johns.

"The Lucasville area and a number of other municipalities in this area (are) looking for extensions of transit and aren't able to do that until these deficiencies are met."

Down the road, council also approved more than \$40 million in funding over three years for new buses. The budget includes \$16.2 million in 2010/11, \$17 million in 2011/12 and \$15.2 million in 2012/13.

Nova Scotia sees highest rise in prison population

CORRECTIONS Nova Scotia and Alberta saw the highest increases in the number of people behind bars awaiting trial last year, according to Statistics Canada.

In total, there were 224 people on remand in Nova Scotia in 2007-08, a 31 per cent hike from 2006-07. In Alberta, there were 1,666 people awaiting trial, up 28 per cent.

In P.E.I., the number of

people on remanded actually dropped by 32 per cent.

Nova Scotia still has the lowest provincial incarceration rate, at 56 people per 100,000 adults. The Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Manitoba, have the highest incarceration rates.

The number of sentenced youths behind bars went down 14 per cent last year in Nova Scotia.

RACHEL BOOMER/METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

IMPAIRED Halifax RCMP charged six people with impaired driving last weekend. Two of the six were charged at one of 19 holiday checkpoints. RCMP also chased an impaired driver driving on the wrong side in Lower Sackville.

ROBBERY A 25-year-old man was robbed just before 7 p.m. Monday by three men who assaulted him and took his backpack. The three suspects are between 18 and 20 years old, about six feet tall, of medium build, and were wearing dark hoodies.

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Mayflower Mall

Halifax Shopping Centre

337 Welton St.

Truro

245 Robie St.

Windsor

Fort Edward Mall

Yarmouth

Yarmouth Mall

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Trinity Conception Square

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Random Square Shopping Mall

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Gander Mall

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Exploits Valley Mall

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Regent Mall

Grand Falls

Grand Falls Shopping Centre

Miramichi

Bridgeview Plaza

Moncton/Dieppe/Riverview

Champlain Place

Wheeler Park Power Centre

33 Mapleton Rd.

535 Coverdale Rd.

106 - 451 Paul St.

Saint John

Lancaster Mall

McAllister Place

Shippigan

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On average, 390 children under the age of 14 die every year from preventable injuries and 25,500 are hospitalized, according to Safe Kids Canada, a national child-injury prevention organization linked with the Hospital for Sick Children. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Canada



Mounties to test Tasers

The RCMP said they would test 24 Tasers bought before 2006 after a media investigation suggested older models of the stun gun could fire excessively large electrical charges. Last week, CBC aired an investigation into 44 X-26 units, left, used by U.S. agencies and said independent tests showed four of them fired charges up to 60 per cent greater than the supposed maximum. All four were made before 2005. **REUTERS**

Path clear for Ignatieff to lead

Rae withdraws from race, Liberal leadership could be finalized as early as today

Michael Ignatieff has seized his long-sought prize — the Liberal leadership — raising fresh questions about the future of the opposition coalition that has vowed to defeat the minority Conservatives next month.

The fate of the coalition will be among the pressing issues facing Ignatieff as he prepares to take over the leadership of a party battered by cash woes, two lost elections

and dismal poll numbers.

Late yesterday, Ignatieff paid tribute to the two candidates who had pulled out of the race and hailed the party for responding “quickly to changing circumstances to offer stability and leadership to Canadians.

The Liberal MP for Eto-bicoke-Lakeshore was assured of the leadership yesterday after Bob Rae — the last rival candidate in the race — dropped out, conceding he didn’t have



“As far as I’m concerned his leadership is entirely constitutional.”

Bob Rae

enough support to win in the party’s stripped-down contest that left little time to sign up new backers.

Ignatieff, a runner-up in the 2006 contest that saw Stéphane Dion elected party leader, could take over as interim leader as

early as today. That’s when Liberal MPs and senators meet behind closed doors and are expected to make their own recommendation that Ignatieff serve as interim leader.

At the same time, the party executive were

planning to conduct a hurried “consultation” with riding association presidents and various ex-officio members to solicit their confirmation of Ignatieff. He won’t be ratified as full-time leader until the party’s convention in May in Vancouver.

Last night, the party announced that consultations would be completed by 1 p.m. EST today, clearing the way for the national executive to announce Ignatieff as the interim

leader by 2 p.m. EST.

Rae dismissed suggestions that a fast-track contest undercut Ignatieff’s claim on the leadership.

“As far as I’m concerned, his leadership is entirely constitutional, legitimate and appropriate and nobody should think anything differently,” Rae said.

Ignatieff wasn’t speaking publicly yesterday, but is expected to hold a news conference today after the caucus meeting.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

ONTARIO In the supermarket and even out for a stroll, Premier Dalton McGuinty was pestered over the furor his government created with a plan to limit teen drivers to having no more than one teen passenger. That’s why he gave in earlier this week and scrapped the move that was part of changes aimed at making Ontario roads safer for teens, who have higher accident rates.

SURPLUS Despite a slump in world oil prices, the Newfoundland and Labrador government said yesterday it expects to finish the fiscal year with more than \$1 billion in its pocket, CBC News Online

reports. Finance Minister Jerome Kennedy, however, laid out a set of dire warnings to accompany a fiscal update that projects a \$1.27-billion surplus for the current operating year.

ECONOMY The Canadian economy will get a solid boost from yesterday’s Bank of Canada rate cut, but fiscal stimulus will also be needed, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said. “We don’t need probably as much stimulus as the United States thinks it needs, but we’re going to need a significant stimulus package and obviously to address some particular sectoral challenges as well,” Harper told CBC Television.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mourning Ted Rogers funeral



Loretta Rogers, centre, and family members watch as the casket of her late husband Ted Rogers, president and CEO of Rogers Communications, leaves the church following funeral services in Toronto, yesterday. Rogers was 75 when he died Dec. 2.

America’s Most Wanted nabbed in Calgary

KRISTA SYLVESTER
Metro Canada

ARREST A convicted child molester of America’s Most Wanted television notoriety has been arrested in Calgary.

The Fugitive Apprehension Detail (FAD) received a tip from U.S. marshalls and yesterday arrested 49-year-old Steven Andrew Hayes on a downtown construction site.

“It’s always good to get an offender of this nature off of the streets,” FAD Sgt. Tony Manning said.

Hayes appeared on the show America’s Most Wanted after he fled Lewisville, Tex., in 2005 where he was wanted for aggravated sexual assault of a child. He was convicted of sexually assaulting another young girl in 1997.

“We knew he worked in construction and was doing general labour where we found him,” Manning said.

Police believe Hayes was using documents that didn’t belong to him in order to obtain a job and get paid including a social insurance number.

EXPERIENCE IRELAND WITHOUT THE AIRFARE

A hungry feelin', came o'er me stealin' ... and the old triangle, went jingle, jangle, all along the banks of the Royal Canal.
— BRENDAN BEHAN

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Welfare not meeting basic needs: Report

SUPPORT Welfare incomes in Canada are increasingly inadequate to meet basic needs, according to a report to be released today in Toronto, with Ontario seeing the harshest loss over the past two decades.

In 2007-dollar terms in Ontario, between 1992 and 2007, a lone parent’s welfare declined by almost \$5,500 (from \$21,931) and

a couple with two children saw a loss of almost \$8,150 (from \$29,207), says the report.

“When we do not grant even the basics needed for survival, how then can we honestly criticize the recipients of such assistance for lack of effort or decry behaviours that offer relief from such a miserable existence?” says the National

Council of Welfare report.

Payouts for most of Canada’s 1.7 million adults and children on welfare have dropped dramatically over the past 20 years and fall well below the poverty line, says the report, which looked at provincial and federal assistance for those on welfare from 1986 to 2007.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bush wants Mugabe to step down

The African Union rejected tougher action against Zimbabwe yesterday, while U.S. President George W. Bush joined calls for President Robert Mugabe to step down. **REUTERS**

7

World

Greek rioters target parliament

Opposition calls for government to quit

Riot police battled protesters outside Greece's parliament and in Athens suburbs yesterday, while opposition socialists called for the conservative government to quit in order to end the worst civil unrest in decades.

Rows of riot police squared off with demonstrators for more than an hour outside the parliament building before firing tear gas to disperse the crowd in fresh violence triggered by the shooting of a 15-year-old boy by police.

Bands of young protesters regrouped and threw stones at police, chanting:

Emergency talks

• Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis, whose New Democracy party has a one-seat majority, held emergency talks with the president and opposition leaders to urge them to close ranks against the rioters.

"Let parliament burn!"

On the fourth day of violence, protests spread to the Athens suburbs after the funeral of the boy, Alexandros Grigoropoulos, whose killing on Saturday triggered Greece's worst riots in decades, fanned by

discontent over government and a slowing economy.

More than 5,000 people clad in black gathered at the cemetery, many chanting: "Cops, Pigs, Murderers!" As the boy's flower-covered white coffin was being buried, protesters clashed with police outside and one officer fired shots in the air to disperse an angry crowd.

His killing touched a raw nerve among young Greeks, outraged at years of political scandals and rising levels of poverty and unemployment, worsened by the global economic downturn.

REUTERS

India Muslims celebrate Eid al-Adha



Indian Muslims pray together to mark Eid al-Adha on a busy road in Mumbai yesterday. Muslims around the world celebrate Eid al-Adha to mark the end of the hajj.

News in brief

PAKISTAN U.S. President George W. Bush said yesterday the United States has made it clear to Pakistan that it will do whatever is necessary to protect American soldiers and civilians. Tensions have cropped up between the U.S. and Pakistan over U.S. drone strikes in pursuit of militants in the border region with Afghanistan.

ARREST Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested yesterday on corruption charges, including that he tried to sell the U.S. Senate seat vacated by fellow Democrat and president-elect Barack Obama. **REUTERS**

Women happier sex: poll

STUDY Men are happier with money, while women find greater joy in friendships and relationships with their children, co-workers and bosses, a new global survey reveals.

The online survey of 28,153 people in more than 51 countries by global marketing and information firm Nielsen found that as the world grapples with a recession and financial markets remain volatile, many people are reminding themselves that money can't buy happiness.

The Nielsen happiness

study found that globally, women are happier than men in 48 of the 51 countries surveyed in April 2008, and only in Brazil, South Africa and Vietnam were men found to be happier than women.

"Because they are happier with non-economic factors, women's happiness is more recession-proof which might explain why women around the world are happier in general than men are," Nielsen vice-president of consumer research Bruce Paul said in a statement.

REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Let's retire the Queen

Canada needs to grow up and end an outdated practice

The WestView

Paul Sullivan

Journalist & media consultant

With apologies to Paul McCartney ... Her Majesty's a pretty nice girl, but why is she running my country?

As I've watched the remarkable events of the past week unfold, the most remarkable was the spectacle of Stephen Harper, hat in hand, tugging his forelock in the general direction of Michaëlle Jean, Mrs. Windsor's representative in Ottawa.

You're familiar with Mrs. Windsor? That nice old lady in London with the corgis and the celebrity grandchildren? Her Majesty?

There hasn't been a lot of talk about the suitability of that exchange; I guess because most of us are relieved that Ms. Jean, a former Radio-Canada reporter with not one iota of experience in governance, just

granted the prime minister's wish, and Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition doesn't get to run the country, at least not yet.

But why do Mrs. Windsor and her envoy still run the country? Until last week, they have been little more than glorified lawn ornaments. Inviting them to your charity garden party adds instant class. But what if Ms. Jean, who probably doesn't like Mr. Harper any more than Mr. Harper likes her, had decided to give the reins of power to Stéphane Dion and the balance of power to Chief Blothead Gilles Duceppe?

For one thing, we'd hear a lot more squawking about how it's time to end this outdated ridiculous subservience to Prince Charles' Mom. Instead, a grateful nation has decided to put aside

any qualms about Ms. Jean, her former French citizenship, her rumoured separatist leanings, her absurd appointment as the Queen's representative, never mind the innate, fundamental absurdity of the Queen herself.

So what happens in January if Her Majesty's Loyal Etc. try to stick it to Stephen one more time?

Back he goes, gripping his forelock, to visit Ms. Jean, and she informs him that "we are not amused,"

and turns the government over to Michael or Rae and their little dog Jack? She can do that! She's Mrs.

We should send Ms. Jean back to Radio-Canada, tell Mrs. Windsor that it's time to retire as the Queen of Canada, thanks for the memories.

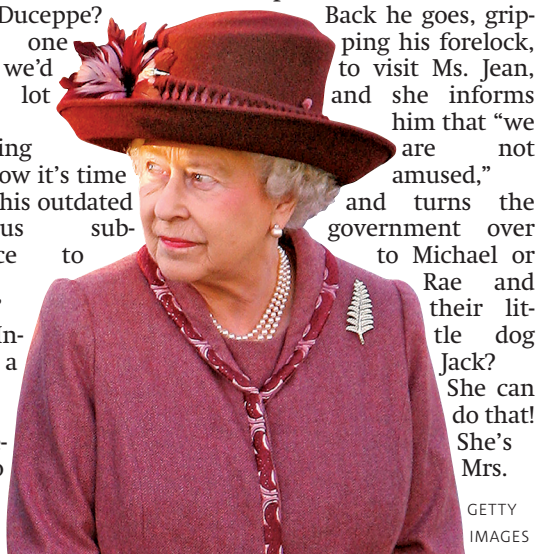
Windsor's envoy. Mrs. Windsor runs the country! I simply can't believe we're still letting this happen. Here's what we need to do: Immediately, as a nation, we should grow up.

Then, we should send Ms. Jean back to Radio-Canada, tell Mrs. Windsor that it's time to retire as the Queen of Canada, thanks for the memories. Then we elect a president at large (as everyone mistakenly believes they vote for the prime minister anyway), while preserving the parliamentary democracy that we've come to know and love.

We do this through proportional representation, so we get the parties and the policies we want exactly in proportion to the popular vote. Now that's democracy.

And God Save Mrs. Windsor for another day.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.



GETTY IMAGES



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

Thank goodness for women's voices on politics

Until recently, it was unusual to see women writing in the Comments section under regional and national media print and online political stories. That has changed, and now we see some thoughtful comments from women in among mostly male comments. I say thank goodness. It's about time that women spoke up — after all, they are about 50 per cent of eligible voters.

Too many women stayed away from the polls this last October election — I don't expect that to happen in those numbers next election as women realize they can make a difference.

DON WILSON, MASTOWN, N.S.

Election worth the price tag

At this point, the Liberal-NDP coalition will try to take power, almost certainly no matter what, on the principle that they can. There is no attempts to engage in dialogue with the Tories, no attempt to compromise.

If this is allowed to proceed, every election which fails to give one party a majority will become a free-for-all, as all the parties try to form

coalitions.

Let's go to the polls and let the people have their say — Tory or a Liberal-NDP-Bloc government. The cost of another election is small for getting a government which everyone will agree was actually elected by the people.

DAMIAN KANAREK, TORONTO

MPs proroguing pay?

As a gesture to help the economy, will the members of Parliament be proroguing their salaries during their extended leave of absence?

BERNIE MERRETT, TORONTO

Kudos to editorial cartoonist

I have particularly enjoyed the small editorial cartoons in Metro.

Editorial cartoonists have a unique talent of highlighting the crux of the issue and giving readers a better appreciation and understanding of the issue. Michael de Adder's cartoons are clean and not cluttered. I put him in the class of Aislin (Montreal Gazette), Norris and Peterson. His cartoons are an invaluable addition to Metro and provide interesting and stimulating inclusion in our household.

Keep up the good work.

FRANKLIN CHOW, OTTAWA

Word on the street: What's the best holiday gift you've ever received?

Robert Panahi

age 24, Halifax

A: Nintendo Wii!

Sophie Thapa

age 19, Bermuda

A: The newspaper ran a picture of my church group with a premature baby we prayed would live. The baby did.

Timothy Thibault

age 19, Cole Harbour

A: I would have to say my electric guitar.

Terence Doerksen

age 30, Edmonton

A: I got these two big castles as a kid and I spent all Christmas with my dad putting everything together.

Valerie Nolet

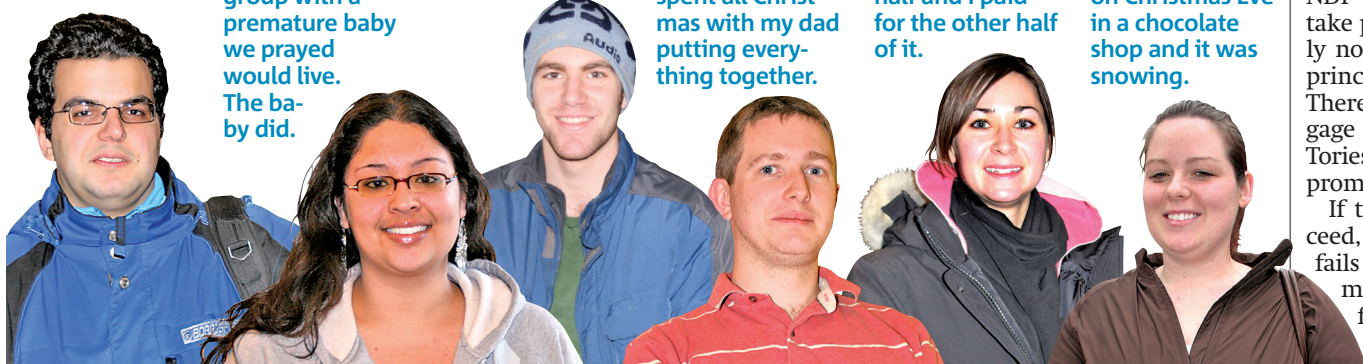
age 21, Ottawa

A: My car. I got it from my parents. They paid for half and I paid for the other half of it.

Jen Seymour

age 21, Abbotsford, B.C.

A: An engagement ring. We were in Whistler on Christmas Eve in a chocolate shop and it was snowing.



It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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\$209	\$259	\$289	\$300	\$315	\$324	\$350	\$439

International: Fares are EACH WAY from Halifax and require ROUND-TRIP purchase. Departure dates as indicated below.

LONDON HEATHROW JAN. 1, 2009–APRIL 30, 2009	PARIS JAN. 1, 2009–MAY 14, 2009	MUNICH ¹ FRANKFURT ¹ JAN. 1, 2009–MAY 14, 2009	ZURICH JAN. 1, 2009–APRIL 30, 2009	SÃO PAULO JAN. 1, 2009–JUNE 19, 2009	SANTIAGO JAN. 6, 2009–MARCH 31, 2009	HONG KONG JAN. 1, 2009–MAY 24, 2009	SYDNEY, AU FEB. 16, 2009–MARCH 31, 2009
\$199	\$320	\$337	\$340	\$365	\$396	\$674	\$839

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Despite a deep 0.75 per cent rate by the Bank of Canada, chartered banks passed along only part of the cut. TD Bank said it would drop its prime rate 0.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent. CIBC, Royal Bank, BMO and Scotiabank followed with equal cuts. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Bank of Canada slashes interest rate by 0.75%

Canada's central bank cut its benchmark interest rate yesterday more aggressively than most economists had expected, bringing it to its lowest level in 50 years and declaring for the first time that the Canadian economy is in recession.

The Bank of Canada, in a statement released before the stock market opened, said it was lowering its overnight target rate by three-quarters of a percentage point to 1.5 per cent, the lowest it has been since 1958.

In explaining its decision, the central bank said the world economic outlook had worsened in recent months. It now expects a "broader and deeper" global downturn than previously anticipated and sees the weakness taking its toll on Canada.

"While Canada's econo-

"Canada's economy ... is now entering a recession as a result of the weakness in global economic activity."

Bank of Canada

my evolved largely as expected during the summer and early autumn, it is now entering a recession as a result of the weakness in global economic activity," the bank said in a statement.

It was the first clear admission by the bank that Canada is joining most major economies in sliding into recession, typically defined as two consecutive quarters of contraction, although Gov. Mark Carney had hinted at it last month. **REUTERS**

Oil firms wait on job cuts

ENERGY Economic turmoil and skidding oil prices have yet to cause Canadian oil companies to resort to large-scale job cuts, but harder measures will be coming if the industry's prospects don't improve.

Though struggling with low oil and natural gas prices and stubbornly high costs for big projects, oil producers and oilsands developers have so far shied away from cutting staff.

Some are expecting oil

prices, which have fallen more than \$100 a barrel from the record peak in July, to recover. Others are leery of pushing skilled, seasoned employees out the door.

The job picture is more fragile at the small producers that depend on capital markets and bank credit lines to raise money for drilling and expansion, and analysts say smaller outfits are starting to feel the heat. **REUTERS**

Economy It's a 'bare' market



A store going out of business is seen in the Queens borough of New York yesterday. Despite gloomy government data showing half a million jobs were lost in November and drops in retail sales of more than 10 per cent at some stores, U.S. stocks jumped recently as investors bet that a steep drop in oil prices will boost consumer spending and lift retail stocks.

Downturn expected to flatten telecom profits

TELECOM Profits for the telecom industry will become flatter in the face of a worsening economy and new competition in the wireless market, according to a forecast by the Conference Board of Canada.

The outlook forecast annual combined profits of about \$7 billion between 2008 and 2011.

The board had calculated that industry profits for 2006 and 2007 were \$5.6 billion and \$6.5 billion, respectively.

Analysts have long warned that the companies' historically fat wireless margins could come

under pressure as new wireless entrants drive down service prices.

Though demand for wireless is driving growth, "profit levels will remain flat over the next few years, due to fierce price competition, and a slowdown in demand growth due to the economic slowdown." **REUTERS**

BCE's role

• Another industry woe is the BCE buyout, the biggest leveraged buyout in the world, which was derailed after KPMG said the deal would leave BCE insolvent.

Pressure's on to follow U.S. lead

AUTOS An agreement on a U.S. aid package for the auto sector would turn up the heat on Canada to bring forward its own support plan, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

"I expect that if Washington comes forward with an interim support package ... there will be a heightened pressure on us to respond with an interim package as well," he told reporters.

The White House said it was making progress in negotiations with Congress on a \$15-billion US rescue package for Ford, General Motors and Chrysler. **REUTERS**

THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

Bonnet Lake upgrades:

National Defence and Atlantic Gateway Minister Peter MacKay and Keith Ashfield, Minister of State for ACOA, yesterday announced a federal investment of more than \$30,000 for upgrades and enhancements to the Bonnet Lake coastal barrens wilderness protected area and former Royal Canadian Air Force Radar site, including a rest area, signage and interpretative panels depicting local World War II history and information.

Bonnet Lake upgrades:

Atlantic Premiers met Monday in Summerside, P.E.I. to discuss the need for increased and accelerated infrastructure funding from all levels of government in light of the global economic slowdown. They stressed the role of transportation infrastructure in stimulating the economy.

Not ready for pandemics:

Even though more than 80 per cent of Canadian companies with 500+ employees are concerned about the impact of a flu pandemic on their business, half of them have no pandemic plan. According to the results of a national survey released today, one third of all companies are not even thinking about pandemic planning. Of those Canadian businesses that have attempted to project employee absenteeism, they estimate an average absentee level of 36 per cent during an outbreak.

Bonnet Lake upgrades:

Canadian employers expect a mild hiring climate for the January to March period of 2009, with 16 per cent expecting to increase their payrolls in the first quarter of 2009, while 9 per cent anticipate cutbacks, for a net employment outlook of seven per cent. Almost 75 per cent expect no change and 3 per cent are unsure of their staffing intentions for the upcoming quarter.

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Ski-Doo maker to cut jobs, output

JOB CUTS Bombardier Recreational Products Inc., the maker of Ski-Doo snowmobiles that was spun off from Bombardier Inc. in 2003, said yesterday it would cut nearly 1,000 jobs and slash production by 20 per cent worldwide because of the global economic slump.

The Quebec-based company said 550 white-collar jobs will be cut, and 430 blue-collar employees will be temporary laid off in the fourth quarter. **REUTERS**

Business in brief

ENERGY Indian state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp. reluctantly went ahead with its high-priced bid for Russia-focused oil company Imperial Energy yesterday after losing its appeal to delay the process. Shares in Imperial closed up 18 per cent at 1,005 pence, although they are still below ONGC's bid price of 1,250 pence a share. The deal now hinges on whether ONGC's condition that it must receive 90 per cent acceptances is fulfilled during the offer period. Imperial said yesterday it

strongly recommended shareholders accept the offer "as soon as possible," as ONGC was not obliged to extend its offer. Imperial investors believe that if the 90 per cent condition is not met, ONGC will walk away from the deal. "Given how ONGC has behaved on this so far, I think that if they don't get 90 per cent they are going to walk," a source close to the deal told Reuters. ONGC agreed to buy Imperial in August when oil traded at \$128 US a barrel, before crude prices collapsed.

REUTERS

Recession hits NFL

The NFL announced yesterday that it is cutting more than 10 per cent of its staff in response to the downturn in the U.S. economy. The league is eliminating about 150 of its staff of 1,100 in New York, New Jersey and Los Angeles. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA



K-Rod to Mets

The New York Mets have agreed to a three-year deal with free-agent closer Francisco Rodriguez, ESPN reported yesterday. Rodriguez's deal, worth \$37 million US, is pending a physical, which the New York Post reports will take place today. Rodriguez broke the Major League saves record last season for the Angels with 62.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Melrose lets fly on Lightning

NHL While a guest on Toronto's FAN 590 radio station yesterday, ex-Tampa Bay Lightning coach Barry Melrose sounded off on his former club, saying that during his short tenure he dealt



"I hope Tampa Bay doesn't win a game in the next year."

Barry Melrose

with constant interference from the organization. "I had guys in Tampa who wanted to run the team and I wouldn't let them. I was hired to coach and I coached," Melrose said. "Every day was a constant battle." Melrose was

fired less than a month ago, only 16 games into the season.

In the 11 games they have played since, Tampa Bay has only won once. When asked if that made him happy, he said, "Yeah it does, and any coach who tells you otherwise is a liar," Melrose told the FAN.

"I hope Tampa Bay doesn't win a game in the next year," Melrose also criticized Lightning forward Steven Stamkos, the first pick in the 2008 draft. "Steven is not ready for the NHL," Melrose said. "Right now he's just not strong enough physically."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

MLB According to ESPN, New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman met with A.J.



Burnett

Burnett's agents Monday and reportedly told them that the Yankees would be willing to "do better" than the four-year, \$60-million US contract offer that the Atlanta Braves made to the former Blue Jay. The story comes on the heels of reports that fellow free agent pitcher C.C. Sabathia has expressed interest in playing for the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Yankees' six-year, \$140-million offer to Sabathia has been on the table for nearly four weeks, and it is believed Sabathia would prefer to play for a team near his home in his native California.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Boyle happy to escape Lightning nightmare

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Dan Boyle can't hide the hint of satisfaction he gets out of seeing the Tampa Bay Lightning in the NHL basement.

"I'm only human, right?" Boyle joked. "But to see what has happened out there, it's probably more sad than anything for me because I still think it's a great place to play and it's very unfortunate all this stuff is going on."

The 32-year-old defenceman didn't realize it at the time, but the Lightning gave him the equivalent of a get-out-of-jail free card when it kicked him to the curb in July after new owners Oren Koules and Len Barrie took over.

Boyle, who was asked to waive the no-trade clause before the ink had dried on his new six-year contract, ended up being dealt to the San Jose Sharks. While the Koules-Barrie overhaul has Tam-



The Sharks' Dan Boyle is currently second among NHL defencemen in scoring with 24 points.

pa Bay (6-13-8) bumbling in controversy and incompetence, Boyle and the Sharks (22-3-2) are the NHL's best team.

"I was planning to be (in Tampa Bay) for a while,

but having seen the way some guys have been treated there and what's gone on so far, and on top of that, how I've been treated here, I have no regrets whatsoever," Boyle

said.

The 5-foot-11, 190-pounder from Ottawa has put the Lightning debacle behind him, not to mention a serious wrist injury that sidelined him for half of last season.

Boyle, who is second among NHL blue-liners with 10 goals and 14 assists for 24 points in 25 games, is hearing whispers he could be a Norris Trophy candidate if he keeps it up.

Although Boyle won a Stanley Cup with the Lightning in 2004, he calls the Sharks the "best team I've been on."

But he is also aware the Sharks have been perennial underachievers in the post-season and wants to help erase that label.

"Playoff hockey, as we all know, is totally different," Boyle said.

"We had a pretty good team in '04. We stepped it up to the next level in the playoffs. Until we get there, until we do that with the Sharks, it remains to be seen."

Petitclerc takes Lou Marsh Trophy

After winning five gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, wheelchair racer Chantal Petitclerc has today been awarded the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's top athlete this year.

A panel made up of sports journalists and luminaries from around the country judges the award, named for the former Toronto Star sports editor. This year, former Olympic rower and 1991 Lou Marsh winner Silken Laumann headed the awards committee.

After her last win in Beijing, her coach, Peter Eriksson, told reporters, "I would say she is one of the greatest Canadian athletes, period."

Competing at Beijing in the T54 class for athletes with different levels of spinal cord injuries and am-

putations, she won the 200- and 800-metre races within 90 minutes of each other, setting two world records.

"I told my coach, never again. This was a stressful day," she said after her double-gold day.

She also won the 400 in record time and the 100 before finishing up in the 1,500 with a win by more than one second over her closest rival.

Petitclerc was injured as a teenager in Saint-Marc-des-Carrieres, a

village between Quebec City and Trois Rivières. She and a friend were trying to fashion an old barn door into a bike ramp. But as they tried to prop it up, it fell on Petitclerc causing her injury.

Overall, Petitclerc won 14 golds and 21 total medals over five Olympic games. She holds four world records and

adds the Lou Marsh to her many other honours, including



Petitclerc won five gold medals at this year's Paralympics in Beijing.

Recent winners

Lou Marsh Trophy

- 2008: Chantal Petitclerc
- 2007: **Sidney Crosby**
- 2006: Cindy Klassen
- 2005: Steve Nash
- 2004: Adam van Koeverden
- 2003: Mike Weir
- 2002: Catriona Le May Doan

Maclean's magazine's Canadian of the Year in 2004. Petitclerc joins Rick Hansen as one of two wheelchair athletes to win the Lou Marsh Trophy. She is the 72nd recipient overall.

This year's 22 Lou Marsh finalists included gold-medal show jumper Eric Lamaze, Deportivo la Coruna soccer star Julian de Guzman, NBA standout Steve Nash and world figure skating champion Jeffrey Buttle.

Last year's winner was Cole Harbour's Sidney Crosby.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NHL RESULT

Flames 1 Canadiens 4



Robert Lang scored twice and Jaroslav Halak made 32 saves as the Montreal Canadiens defeated the Calgary Flames 4-1 last night in Montreal. Matt D'Agostini scored his fourth goal in as many games and Andrei Markov also lit the lamp for the Canadiens, who have won three of their last four games and earned at least a point for the 10th time in their last 12 games overall (7-3-2).

Dustin Boyd, who had missed the previous five games with an upper-body injury, returned to the lineup and scored the only goal for the Flames, who are 2-2 in their last four games. Miikka Kiprusoff allowed four goals on 31 shots in the losing effort.

The Canadiens grabbed a 1-0 lead 3:41 into the first period. Lang's backhand from near the left post was stopped by Kiprusoff, but the momentum of Calgary defenceman Mark Giordano pushed the puck across the goal-line and Lang was credited with his ninth of the season.

NBA RESULT

Cavaliers 114 Raptors 94



LeBron James dominated from the start to the end of the third quarter, scoring 31 points in 30 minutes and setting the Cavaliers' all-time steals record, in Cleveland's ninth straight win, 114-94 over the Toronto Raptors last night in Cleveland.

James picked off a Jose Calderon pass in the first minute of the game for his 735th career steal, passing Mark Price, who recorded 734 steals in nine seasons and 588 games with the club. James accomplished the feat in just his sixth season and 412 games into his storied career.

The Cavs, who have won all of their games by at least 12 points during their current victory surge, are 12-0 at home and have won 17 of 18 overall.

Toronto has now lost five straight, including three in a row since firing Sam Mitchell. New coach Jay Triano will be looking for his first win tonight as the Raptors host the Indiana Pacers in Toronto.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lions over Tigers in Jr. A battle

HOCKEY If the Halifax Lions have had it bad this season, the Restigouche Tigers have had it much, much worse.

The worst two teams in the Maritime Junior A Hockey League clashed last night at the Forum, and the Lions came out on top of the Tigers 6-4 before a crowd of 200.

The Lions, who are now 2-2 in December, improved to 6-23-4 on the season, five points ahead of the Tigers.

Chad Locke, Jonathan McArthur, Patrick LeBlanc, Patrick Smith, Simon Bissonette and Stephen Popovic scored for Halifax, while goaltender Melvin Day stopped 31 shots.

The Lions return to action on Saturday on the road against the Truro Bearcats, and conclude their pre-holiday schedule at home next Tuesday against the Woodstock Slammers.

Sharrow dealt to Blackhawks

NHL Former Halifax Mooseheads defenceman Jim Sharrow found himself on the move again yesterday. Sharrow was dealt for the second time in 18 months, going from the Vancouver Canucks to the Chicago Blackhawks for a conditional draft pick. He was then assigned to the Rockford IceHogs of the American Hockey League.

The 23-year-old from Framingham, Mass., was originally drafted by the Atlanta Thrashers in 2003 and traded to the Canucks for minor-leaguer Jesse Schultz in June 2007. Sharrow, who has yet to make his NHL debut, had a goal and five assists in 17 games with the AHL's Manitoba Moose. He collected 101 points in 191 career games in Halifax, placing him fourth all-time among Mooseheads blueliners.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

YorkReport



will return

Cross bridge to get out of basement

A win in P.E.I. tonight would help the Mooseheads move out of last place

MATTHEW WUEST
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If the Halifax Mooseheads are going to catch anyone in the Atlantic Division, it's the P.E.I. Rocket.

With that in mind, the Mooseheads head across the Confederation Bridge today to face the Rocket in Charlottetown at 7 p.m. in their quest to climb out of the basement.

The Mooseheads (10-21-2) are six points behind the Rocket (11-16-6), and a win would put the heat on.

"Coach (Cam Russell) is always talking about catching this team in the standings," said Mooseheads rookie Ned O'Brien. "We're going to be fighting with them for a playoff spot all season, so it's going to be an important game for us."

P.E.I. has been flailing lately, with just one win in their past 10 games. The Mooseheads have been consistently mediocre, dotting their 23 losses with occasional victories, but not winning consecutive games all season.

Their top line, featuring Tomas Knotek and Yuri Cheremetiev, has gone ice-



ERIN MACDONALD PHOTO

Ned O'Brien admits tonight's game is an important one.

cold lately, with just two goals in the past five games, while star forward Logan MacMillan has been silent since returning from a month-long knee injury.

Overall, the Mooseheads want to produce more of-

fence. Their goals-per-game average of 2.67 is the worst in the league, despite the fact they average almost 29 shots a night.

"We get a lot of shots out there, but we need to score on our opportunities,"

O'Brien said. "It seems to be our weakness ... We put on a lot of shots, but just can't finish."

P.E.I. has won both matchups with Halifax by a 12-4 scoring margin. Although those points were

Moose notes

- The Halifax Mooseheads have recalled goaltender Stefan Dumaresque from the junior A ranks. The 17-year-old from Labrador City, N.L., was called up yesterday after Mooseheads starter Mark Yetman was diagnosed with a mild groin pull that will likely put him on the shelf for tonight's road game against the P.E.I. Rocket. Dumaresque, selected in the 11th round (185th overall) in the 2007 draft, has a 6-8-1 record along with a 4.06 goals-against average and a .887 save percentage with the Restigouche Tigers of the Maritime Junior A Hockey League. In other injury news, Gerrad Grant has recovered from a hip injury, but Jessyko Bernard is day-to-day with the flu.

missed opportunities for the Mooseheads, this is the first of the final six head-to-head meetings and big gains are still salvageable.

"These are pretty much four-point games," said Mooseheads forward Chad Earle. "They've got some really skilled players, but I think if we play physical, we can beat 'em."

Rainmen add Dandridge, team plans to play 12 deep

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Rainmen are hoping new signing Glen Dandridge will help keep defences honest this season.

The Rainmen signed the 6-foot-6 shooting guard yesterday, describing him as deadly beyond the arc and a perfect complement to three-point specialist Brian Silverhorn. Dandridge graduated in the spring from Lambuth University in Tennessee, where he was an NAIA all-American after averaging 15 points per game and going 80-of-213 from three-point terri-

tory, a 37.2 per cent conversion rate.

Silverhorn, a member of last year's Rainmen, is also an NAIA grad who boasts the best shooting touch on the team.

"Glen has unlimited range — he's a guy who can flat-out shoot the basketball, and that's his specialty," Rainmen owner Andre Levingston said.

"With him, you're not going to be able to double-team us. We'll dare you to do that."

Levingston said Dandridge will be a big factor offensively and that he's

not just a depth signing. In fact, Levingston described the Rainmen as a "developmental team" and said nobody on his eventual 12-man roster will ride the pine.

"We aren't bringing in guys to sit on the bench," he said. "We brought in guys who will be productive and win a championship. We're looking for everybody to play."

The Rainmen play an intra-squad game on Saturday in Wolfville.

They open the Premier Basketball League pre-season on Dec. 21 on the road against the Quebec Kebs.



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Rainmen signee Glen Dandridge was a standout at Lambuth University in Tennessee.

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		Milwaukee at Golden State	

Sports in brief

FOOTBALL CIS football players Simeon Rottier and Etienne Legare were named yesterday to participate in the East-West Shrine game next month in Houston.

Rottier is an offensive lineman with the Alberta Golden Bears, and Legare, a defensive lineman, is the third Laval player to be selected to play in the Shrine Game. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Automotive

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA



More zoom for Mazda3

Megaseller's feisty spirit alive and well in revamped model

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

Imagine you're in the shoes of Yoshiyuki Meada. He's the program manager for the 2010 Mazda3 and his job is to fix something that isn't broken.

One of every three Mazda vehicles sold around the world is a Mazda3. In Canada, the Mazda3 has improved in sales every year since it was introduced in 2003. In fact, 2008 will set another sales record, with people lining up to get a little Zoom Zoom in their lives.

What Meada did was take the overall Mazda3 design concept and keep what was working and refine the rest.

To get everyone on board, he insisted on designers and engineers from Mazda's styling centres visiting each other's countries to talk about the car and learn what consumers in different parts of the world were thinking. His idea was to instill what Mazda calls "the emotion of motion."

Although the 2010 and the current Mazda3 have virtually the same dimensions, much attention was paid to aerodynamics with things like panels under the body to smooth air flow with the car's overall coefficient of drag going from 0.31 down to 0.29.

The biggest visual change is the much-enlarged grille. While it retains the Mazda five-point design, the wide mouth is there, not just for improved cooling, but is an actual part of the aero package.

The cabin area underwent not just a major redesign with liberal use of soft-touch materials, but the switch to what Mazda



The 2010 Mazda3 sees a host of changes designed to improve on the outgoing model that was one of the most successful cars in the history of the company.

2010 Mazda3

Type: Compact sedan
Price: Not available
Engine: 2.0-litre DOHC inline four-cylinder; 2.5-litre DOHC inline four-cylinder
HP: 148-167

Highlights

- Front-wheel drive
- Fuel-efficient
- Aerodynamic

calls a Zone Layout.

Instrumentation is placed in zones of importance based on eye movement, the primary ones being the large tachometre on the left and speedometer on the right in pods directly in the line of sight of the driver.

Housed in a second zone is a Multi Information Display (MID) on the centre of the dash and raised 100 mm higher and to the right of the main gauges. Positioned here, it is still in the line of sight. Depending on the model and options, it shows fuel consumption, distance and



The interior of the 2010 Mazda3 is much changed, including a second-tier Multi Information Display (MID) at the top of the centre stack.

play (MID) on the centre of the dash and raised 100 mm higher and to the right of the main gauges. Positioned here, it is still in the line of sight. Depending on the model and options, it shows fuel consumption, distance and

even a 3.5-inch colour navigation screen.

The four-door sedan tested here will arrive in the early spring along with a five-door Sportback hatch in three levels of trim: GX, GS and GT.

The 2.0-litre, DOHC in-

line four-cylinder engine that helped Mazda3 sales take off in 2008 is offered on the GX and GS.

It produces 148 hp and 135 lb/ft of torque and comes with as standard five-speed automatic transmission or optional five-speed automatic driving the front wheels.

Fuel consumption numbers for the 2.0-litre manual and automatic are 8.1/5.9L/100 km city/highway and 8.6L/5.9L/100 km city/highway respectively.

Pricing will not be announced until early in January but it should be pretty much the same at the 2009, with the base car starting around \$17,000.

While my time with this car was brief, there's little doubt the Zoom Zoom spirit is alive and well in the 2010 Mazda3.

Winter safety on thin ice

SURVEY A recent GMAC Insurance survey in the U.S. revealed many drivers are stumped when it comes to proper safety procedures for winter-weather driving.

Of the more than 5,000 licensed drivers surveyed across the nation, GMAC Insurance found several startling facts about driver competency during frozen or snowy conditions:

- 46 per cent were unaware their gas tank should be at least half full in order to continue providing heat in case of an emergency.
- 38 per cent didn't know driving while using cruise control, even in clear conditions, could be dangerous.
- 24 per cent did not know to turn the wheel in the direction of a skid.

One of the most significant misconceptions revealed in the survey was in regards to vehicles equipped with four-wheel drive. While four-wheel drive helps with traction in snow and ice, it does not replace good driving practices and taking the right precautions to stay safe.

Nevertheless, the GMAC Insurance survey showed that 70 per cent of drivers may exhibit a false sense of security when driving in snowy weather if their vehicle was equipped with four-wheel drive:

- 37 per cent feel they are less likely to have an accident.
- 21 per cent would drive during and right after a snowstorm.
- Nine per cent would feel superior to cars without four-wheel drive.
- Three per cent would drive faster than they would with only two-wheel drive.



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The S2000 roadster retains much of what Honda has learned in Formula One and IndyCar racing for a superbly balanced roadster.

Honda's got speed

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

The "fun" of motoring can be seen by some (many) as frivolous in these days where gasoline prices here can be affected overnight by storms and rebellions half a world away.

To me, a car is a form of time machine that lets you cover distances in one hour that would have been mind-boggling to those living in 1808.

Driving is hard work, especially on super highways where the average speed is greater than that of airplanes a century ago. It takes concentration and, as we all know, it isn't cheap.

So that's why, in my opinion, occasionally enjoying the freedom a car can give is something to be savoured.

Which brings me around to the 2008 Honda S2000, a roadster you don't see a lot, but is considered by some as one of the great sportscars of the market and a sure collector car in the future.

When you look at it objectively, it's really a decade old and should be well behind current levels of performance and handling. But that's not the case.

I first saw what was to become the S2000 in 1995. It was a concept car called the SSM and about the size of a Mazda Miata. Frankly, it did not have the perky looks of the Miata so I dismissed it as just another exercise to gauge public reaction.

But Honda had other ideas. It re-emerged in 1999 to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the company that was taking place in 2000, thus the name.

Incorporating the knowledge gained from Formula One and IndyCar, it had an engine of just 2.0-litres displacement with a carbon-fibre reinforced block and super-light forged-alloy pistons. Because this car was

2008 Honda S2000

Type: Performance roadster
Price: \$50,600
Engine: 2.2-litre, DOHC inline four-cylinder engine
HP: 237

Highlights

- Rear-wheel drive
- Well-equipped
- Affordable roadster

designed from the outset to rev to 9,000 rpm, special bearing alloys were used right out of IndyCar. Producing an amazing 240 hp, albeit at 8,600 rpm in the year 2000, the powerplant set new production car standards for volumetric efficiency.

Today the engine is larger at 2.2-litres producing 237 hp at 8,000 rpm with 162 lb/ft of torque. It remains today as the highest specific horsepower/litre normally aspirated production engine on the market. Fuel consumption is listed as 11.8L/100 km city and 8.4L/100 km highway.

The front/rear weight distribution is a perfect 50/50 thanks to the engine sitting back so far back that it is almost mid-engined.

As you can guess, the S2000 is all about revs, or better yet, keeping them up.

This is a car you have to work with, not at, if you get my meaning. Because it breathes so easily, you have to get the revs up before it starts to make meaningful torque. You can go from idle to 8,000 rpm in less than the time it takes to read this sentence.

From launch, you ease in the clutch and you feed in the gas sharply then go for second asap. After that, the traction starts to kick in and you soon find the combination of a stiff platform, compliant suspension and ability to squirt and turn thanks to the 50/50 weight bias results in a very pointable car. In fact, the turning radius is a tight 5.7 metres.

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Southwest slashes flights

Southwest Airlines Co. says it will cut flights as it scales back slightly to deal with the recent dip in travel demand. They're the latest U.S. carrier to reduce capacity, with a net reduction of 13 roundtrip flights across its system. **REUTERS**

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Travel



Advantage files for bankruptcy

Car rental chain Advantage Rent-A-Car Inc. has filed for bankruptcy protection and closed about 40 per cent of its U.S. retail locations, citing a decline in the travel industry as customers cut their travel and discretionary spending. The company said it laid off 440 workers, or almost half its workforce. Advantage said it will continue operating at its remaining locations during the bankruptcy, and is exploring strategic alternatives, including a possible sale or merger. **REUTERS**

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Travel (and get paid to do it)

The **TravelJunkie**

Julia Dimon

thetraveljunkie.ca

Let setting around the world (and getting paid for it), the life of a travel writer is a glamorous one. Trying to get into this coveted and competitive career isn't easy, prompting many to ask: how do I break into the biz? I regularly get e-mails from readers asking for advice. While I do my best to share what I know, it's nice to get a second opinion.

Meet David Farley, a New York-based writer who teaches travel writing at New York University. He has been widely published and is the author of the soon-to-be-released travel book, *An Irreverent Curiosity: In Search of the Church's Strangest Relic in Italy's Oddest Town*, available next spring.

David shares his expertise on how you can break into the travel writing biz: **TAKE A TRAVEL WRITING COURSE** offered by schools in your area.



COURTESY DAVID FARLEY

Travel writer David Farley in Calcata, Italy, where he lived while working on his upcoming book, *An Irreverent Curiosity*.

READ BOOKS ABOUT THE WRITING CRAFT. Travel Writing by Don George and published by Lonely Planet is a great place to start.

READ ARTICLES WRITTEN BY CELEBRATED TRAVEL WRITERS. The best travel writing captures a sense of place. Tap into your five senses to bring the place alive, adding depth and vividness to your descriptions. Add quotes and historical/political context to situate the destination.

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOUR ARTICLE HAS AN "ANGLE," a unique take on the place. Editors want something that hasn't been done be-

fore. Up-and-coming neighbourhoods, trends and unique destinations always make for a good angle.

THE DUTY OF A TRAVEL WRITER is to go one step beyond the realm of an average tourist. Like a reporter, you must talk to people, arrange interviews and get relevant quotes.

MOST TRAVEL EDITORS DON'T WANT TO READ PROPOSALS, they want to see the finished article, already written and polished. Find out the e-mail address of a newspaper's travel editor and send it on. If that editor wants the piece, they'll buy it from you.

PITCH YOUR WORK to local papers, magazines, newsletters and travel websites. Try to get published anywhere and everywhere. After you've got a few good clips, then you can start sending pitches to the bigger newspapers.

TRAVEL WRITERS DON'T MAKE MUCH MONEY. On assignment, it's nice hotels; at home, it's bare cupboards and ramen noodles. Few people can make a living solely from it. Either stick to your day job and write on the side, or become a full-time writer that focuses on travel, but also writes about other passions — food, art, health or pop culture.

SOME PEOPLE ARE NATURALLY GOOD WRITERS, but anyone can become a great writer with practice. Drive is most important. Get into the mindset that nothing is going to stop you from getting what you want. The most successful students I've taught weren't necessarily the most talented in the class; they were the most determined.

Good luck and safe travels.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

Airlines flying into dark economic skies

TRANSPORTATION Global airlines are heading into their worst business crisis in 50 years with carriers facing possible collapse, revenues tumbling and hundreds of thousands of jobs at risk, the industry body IATA said yesterday.

In a forecast for 2009, it said losses were expected to total \$2.5 billion US despite a boost from falling oil prices, with European airlines' deficits soaring tenfold over 2008 to \$1 billion US and Asia-Pacific's doubling to \$1.1 billion US.

"The outlook is bleak and the chronic industry crisis continues as we face the toughest revenue environment in 50 years," said Giovanni Bisignani, director-general of the organisation which groups some 230 international airlines.

IATA's chief economist,

"The outlook is bleak and the chronic industry crisis continues."

Giovanni Bisignani

Brian Pearce, said the turbulence was also likely to hit at aircraft manufacturers like Airbus and Boeing as orders were deferred or cancelled.

The forecast for 2009, based on an expected average oil price of \$60 US a barrel, was scaled down from the \$4.1 billion US IATA had foreseen in September when spot oil prices were around \$140 US and looked set to rise.

IATA also cut its estimate for losses this year to \$5 billion US from the \$5.2 billion US because of lower fuel costs. **REUTERS**

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The Producers Guild of America have honoured the movie *Milk* with its Stanley Kramer Award, for its portrayal of the first openly gay man elected to major public office in the U.S. The prize is handed out to movies that take on provocative social issues. **IMDB.COM**

Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Simpsons lead Writers Guild list

TV The Simpsons, television's longest-running comedy, leads the nominations for the Writers Guild of America's annual broadcasting awards.

The cartoon series was one of five nominees for best comedy series, along with two previous winners from NBC, *30 Rock* and *The Office*, and two cable shows, HBO's *Entourage* and Showtime's *Weeds*.

Four episodes of *The Simpsons* were nominated separately in the category for best animation broadcasts. **REUTERS**

In brief

CRIME Actor Mark Ruffalo's brother has died a week after he was found at his Beverly Hills home with a gunshot wound to the head, police said yesterday. Scott Ruffalo, 39, a hair stylist, was taken off life support Monday night, police said. **REUTERS**

Smith on the defensive

ROBERT ABELE
for Metro Canada

Will Smith's status as the world's biggest movie star — whether as an earth defender (*Independence Day*), superhero (*Hancock*), or last man standing (*I Am Legend*) — doesn't make it any easier for the actor to handle love scenes.

In his newest film, the drama *Seven Pounds*, Smith's character — a haunted man seeking redemption — finds romantic solace one night in the arms of a cardiac patient played by Rosario Dawson.

No such solace existed for Smith on the set for those moments.

"Will is shockingly shy about intimacy with strangers," says Dawson,



Will Smith and Rosario Dawson star in *Seven Pounds*.

who says her gregarious, hard-working co-star pushed the filming of their kissing scenes for weeks, "to the point where I started getting nervous about my breath."

And when it came to that day's filming, she no-

ticed Smith revving up for it by loudly proclaiming to himself, "Yeah, we're gonna GET this scene! Whooo! Yeah, I'm ready to go today!"

"I was like, 'You're kind of freakin' me out, like I need a little calm to go in-

to this, some candles and nice music, and you're screaming like you're playing football or something,'" said Dawson, laughing at the memory.

"But it was so sweet. Everybody could tell he was really nervous."

Smith, whose wife of many years is actress Jada Pinkett Smith, smiles good-naturedly in talking about his on-camera skittishness regarding sex.

He explains it by saying that he lives in fear that a woman cast opposite him in those moments will look at her famous married scene partner as an opportunistic groper.

"I need women to be comfortable around me, and doing a love scene with our clothes off just puts me in a defensive

space," he said. "But it also hurts the acting if I'm in that space."

The idea, he said, is to get to a comfortable point, "Where a hand can brush up against her and it's not, 'Oh, excuse me.'"

At least his romantic interlude in *Seven Pounds* was a necessary one for a story whose message of renewal in the face of debilitating trauma has come to mean everything for its relentlessly positive and upbeat star/producer.

"The spring is always coming," says Smith. "And this character didn't realize that. He didn't know that what got broken could be repaired. And I love that transformative power of love, how you've got to be prepared to catch the wave of new life."

NBC betting on Jay Leno

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

TALKED TO DEATH: Jay Leno's career has been an anxious curiosity ever since NBC let it be known that his *Tonight Show* slot was being handed over to Conan O'Brien, and for months now everybody — including Leno — has been acting like he'd be moving to ABC as soon as Jeff Zucker and NBC would let him slip free of the bonds of his contract.

That bit of conventional wisdom was knocked on the head yesterday with the news that NBC would be giving Leno a 10 p.m. weekday slot for a new talk show, starting in the fall of 2009. As things stand now, that means three different talk show slots on the network running from primetime to late night, with Leno, O'Brien and Jimmy Fallon all on NBC's payroll as hosts. (Or 3 1/2, according to the L.A. Weekly's Nikki Finke, who reminds us of Carson Daly's spot on NBC's schedule, which seems charitable of her.)

The decision might look like NBC belatedly acknowledging Leno's value to the network, but it has more to do with Zucker and programming henchman Ben Silverman's singular focus on the bottom line, and their fervent intention to cut down on the number of weekly hours of network programming.

"Can we continue to broadcast 22 hours in primetime? Three of our competitors don't," Zucker said at a media conference in New York this week, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*. "Can we continue to broadcast seven days a week? One of our competitors doesn't." Any way you look at it, it's a cost-cutting move, since five weekly hours of chat will cost far less than five similar hours of evening drama.

Leno as the lead-in for local news shows at 11 p.m. will play well with NBC affiliate stations all over the U.S., thought the move is betting everything on Leno's late night audience figuring out how to record *CSI* on their PVRs so they can tune in — a big gamble since Leno's numbers rely heavily on older viewers who aren't as comfortable with changing longstanding habits or delayed viewing.

Conventional wisdom was knocked on the head yesterday with the news that NBC would be giving Leno a 10 p.m. weekday slot for a new talk show, starting in the fall of 2009.

Patt Morrison of the *Los Angeles Times* sees the boomer/olderster angle as the story, and not the network penny-pinching. "Leno at 10?" Morrison wrote on a *Times* blog. "From *The Tonight Show* to *The Evening Show*? Pretty soon the nation will be lining up for the seniors' *Early Bird Dinner Special* at 4 p.m., and then coming home to fall asleep right after the Leno monologue, if there is one on the new show, and finally waking up at 3 a.m. to a screaming bladder and screaming infomercials." And so a generation begins passing from view in a fog of drowsiness and incontinence.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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metro
Do it daily.

Doherty's role not dead
Stars of the new 90210 are putting to rest the recent rumours that Shannen Doherty's character Brenda Walsh will be killed off when she makes another appearance on the prime-time soap. **E! NEWS ONLINE**



All-ages Santa show

EDANA ROBITAILLE
for Metro Canada

The cast and crew of **Dear Santa**, a play put on by Eastern Front Theatre in Dartmouth, held a lively rehearsal yesterday afternoon — even Santa was busting a move.

John Dartt plays Santa. It's not his first time in the red suit, and he says that his booming "ho ho ho" didn't take long to perfect. He was called in just a week ago to take over for another actor who was unable to continue in the part. Dartt says that the play is a wonderful comedy where wishes come true.

Rehearsals started just two weeks ago but everyone is confident that the play will be a success, and also impart a little wisdom about the meaning of Christmas.

It was Scott Burke's second time directing the play.

"People will feel really good about Christmas," he says. "They'll laugh a lot and they'll have followed a



Left to right: Zachary Smart, Jenna Curwin, Isabel Stordy and Colin Furlong rehearse a scene from the Eastern Front Theatre's production of **Dear Santa** at the Alderney Landing Theatre yesterday. The cast will give a preview performance tonight at 7:30 p.m. and will open tomorrow night. **Dear Santa** will run until December 28 with performances Tuesday through Sunday.

very happy but complicated story. Adults will feel like kids again and kids will feel like kids, only happier."

In the play, written by Norman Foster, Santa

needs a new sleigh and runs into a few complications: One of his helpers has a terrible crush on his chief of staff, and a teenager finds her way to the North Pole to make a re-

quest for her brother.

Opening night is tomorrow and the show runs until Dec. 28.

Tickets can be purchased at the Alderney Gate Theatre box office.

Abdul says she feared fan

PEOPLE American Idol judge Paula Abdul is blaming the show's producers for allowing Paula Goodspeed to get close to her, **imdb.com** reports. Abdul said she was familiar with the fan found dead of an apparent suicide. "She had been writing disturbing letters for 17 years, almost 18 years," she said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Designer Goco is back, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

WIN a chance to see John Gracie at the Schooner Showroom

You and 9 friends could win tickets to the show, as well as a collection of John Gracie's Christmas CD's. To enter, send an e-mail to susan.whitty@metronews.ca. Enjoy the holiday stylings of John Gracie, Dec. 20th at 8pm.



Contest closes Dec. 17, 2008 at noon. One entry per person. Winner will be contacted via email. Must be at 19+.



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HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	
12/10/08	31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wild News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Pushing Daisies (N)	Private Practice (N)		Sexy Money	
	7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Pushing Daisies (N)	Private Practice (N)		Sexy Money	
	11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Santa Clause *** (1994, Comedy) Tim Allen.			CBC News: The National		The Hour	
	2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Match des étoiles (N) (SC)	M pour musique (HDTV) (SC)		Le Téléjournal	
	32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)	CSI: NY	
	69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Km/h (SC)	Poule-oeufs or	Maman Last Call (2005, Com. dramatique)	Sophie Lorain.		TVA 22 heures	
	6	6	6	CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones		Bones (HDTV PA)	The Guard (N)		News (N)	
	9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: NY "The Triangle"		Law & Order "Sweetie"		Criminal Minds (N)		News (N)
	10	10	10	ELTV	Swap Shop (Live)		Fuelin' Around	Au Natural (N)	Doc Talk	Fuelin' Around	EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Secret Millionaire (N)	Bones (HDTV PA)			Fox First
primetime	12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Little Spirit: Christmas	Life "Canyon Flowers"		Law & Order	
	29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National		Extreme	
	4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Greater Boston	Viewer Favorites		P.O.V. "Inheritance" (HDTV) (N)			
	35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	The Armenian Americans		The Armenian Genocide		
	68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)		Le Plus beau jour de l'année (2005, Com. dramatique)				Pushing Daisies (SC)		110 pour cent
	23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Business News	Squeeze Play		Market Call
	18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	54	54	54	GOLF	Big Break X: Michigan		Top 10	European Tour Year in Review	Golf Central		Year in Review (Part 1 of 2) (N)		PGA Review
	52	52	52	RSE	Prime Time Sports		World Combat League		The Ultimate Fighter		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55	SCOR	Hockey Talk	Game On	NBA Basketball	Indiana Pacers at Toronto Raptors. (HDTV) (Live)				Score Tonight	
sports	45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips		Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked
	53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at Detroit Red Wings. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre
	43	43	43	FAM	Zoeys 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	44	44	44	TOON	6teen (DVS)		Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic	
	26	26	26	TREE	Max & Ruby	Santa Coming to Town	Night Grdn	Backyardigans	A Very Fairy Christmas		Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	
	27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Romeo!	Home Improve.	Fresh Prince	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
	16	16	16	A&E	Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Parking Wars
	70	70	70	APTN	News		Canadian Geographic		Copper Thunderbird		APTN National News: Contact		Tribal Treks
	50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Rosario Dawson. (Live)		New Jack City *** (1991, Crime Drama), Ice-T					Brother
	37	37	37	BRVO	Street Legal		Desperate Housewives		Berkeley	Bravo/Videos	Wingfield	Letters	Arts & Minds
family	25	25	25	CMT	Totally	The Gift	Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith
	49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas		The Simpsons	South Park	House Party
	153	153	153	COURT	Missing Link "Miracles"		The Investigators		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Spy Web: MI 6 "MI 6"	Investigators	
	38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Cash Cab	Destroyed	Monster Moves	Mayday	
	34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	The Stagers	Property Virgin	Unsellable	\$1M Listing
	46	46	46	HIST	Captain Cook: Obsession		NCIS "Switch"		Cities of the Underworld		Captain Cook: Obsession	NCIS	
	17	17	17	MM	Born to Be	disBand	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Degrassi: Next
	19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com		MusicProfile	Back In	Back In	Revival	Where You At	Fabulous Life
	201	201	201	M1	(6) Nancy Drew (2007)		December Boys ** (2007, Drama)	Daniel Radcliffe.			Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix		
	48	23	23	OLN	The Amazing Race 6		Ed's Up	Videos	The Amazing Race 13		Adventures	Ed's Up	Word Travels
cable variety	51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	Conspiracy Theory ** (1997, Suspense)	Mel Gibson, Julia Roberts.			
	206	206	206	PIX	(6:20) The Gift (2000)		(8:15) Canvas * (1992, Suspense)	Gary Busey.		Anaconda * (1997, Suspense), Ice Cube			
	67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI en direct	
	39	39	39	SHOW	EastEnders	Saxondale	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County		Billable Hours	G-Spot	Starter Wife
	40	40	40	SLICE	X-Weighted "Heather"		Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	X-Weighted "Gaia"		Real Housewives of OC	Cattle Drive	
	47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1 "Tin Man"		Lost "I Do"		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Battlestar Galactica	Ghost Hunters	
	14	14	14	SPIKE	CSI: NY "Raising Shane"		UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		UFC Fight for the Troops (HDTV) (Live)		
	57	98	98	STAR	FashionTele	Look-A-Like	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Scoring With the Stars	Tonight Show	
	21	21	21	TLC	What Not to Wear		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate Plus 8	Solved	
	56	34	34	TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
cable variety	20	20	20	TV5	(6:55) Cible	Journal de Fr2	Toute une histoire		Ca se soigne (2008, Drame)	Thierry Lhermitte.	Les Filles,	Partir	
	28	28	28	V	Side Effects "Skin Deep"		Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Secret Santa ** (2003, Drama)	Jennie Garth.	
	60	97	97	VIVA	Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing	Mediums	
	22	22	22	W	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny	Got the Look	
	251	251	251	WGN	Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Stylista		Stylista (N)	WGN News	

critics'corner

Criminal Minds

Once a cop, always a cop. And that mind-set might come in handy this week. A BAU case hits close to home for Morgan (Shemar Moore), who was a police officer before joining the team, when a serial killer specifically focuses on members of the police force in Phoenix, Ariz., in "Brothers in Arms." 10 PM on CBS, CJCH



The Santa Clause

Toy company executive Scott Calvin (Tim Allen) makes a drastic career change in this heartwarming 1994 comedy. After killing the real Kriss Kringle by mistake, Scott tries on the red suit and is transformed into Santa, complete with white beard and round belly. In addition to the traditional duties, this Santa must convince his skeptical son that he's the real thing. 8 PM on CBC

Little Spirit: Christmas in New York

Tired of the same old animated holiday specials? Here's something new, and it's got Danny DeVito — no, he's not Scrooge. He voices a New York caddy who tells the tale of a young newcomer to the Big Apple who gets separated from his dog. He goes looking for her accompanied by a magical imp, Little Spirit, who introduces him to all the interesting people and cultures New York at holiday time has to offer. 9 PM on NBC



Holloway is going to be a dad
Lost star Josh Holloway is going to be a daddy. The actor and his wife, Jessica, are expecting their first child, due next year. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Friends rely on Smith for advice

MARRIAGE Actor Will Smith is under pressure from his famous friends to make his marriage to wife Jada Pinkett Smith work because they're constantly coming to him for relationship advice, **imdb.com** reports.

The tight-knit couple are preparing to celebrate their 11th year of married life on Dec. 31. But Smith's famous pals have "terrified" him by marking their union as the golden standard in Hollywood.

"I was with (rapper) Redman the other day (and) he said, 'Man, listen. I've got this relationship that I'm trying to make work, but I'm telling you, if you and Jada don't work, I'm done,'" Smith tells **People.com**.

"That so terrifies me that there are people's lives that I can affect like that just with little stuff, not even having to do anything big. So I don't want to break that ... I might mess something up, and that sorta keeps me in a place where I'm really focused and paying attention,

and I just don't want to step wrongly."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Knight asks to leave hit show, report says

CAREER Grey's Anatomy star T.R. Knight, who has played George O'Malley since the show's debut, has asked producers to write him off the hit medical drama, **People.com** reports.

While details of his exit have yet to be ironed out, a source close to the situation says it seems likely Knight's request will be granted and he will be released from his contract.

Recent reports that Knight has not been attending table-reads for upcoming

episodes or that he had walked off the set and cleaned out his dressing room are inaccurate, a rep for Knight tells **People**.

"He has been there every day. He was at a table read yesterday. He hasn't said goodbye to anyone."

The rep had no further comment on his possible exit.

So why does Knight want to leave?

"Have you seen the show lately?" says the source. Knight has received little screen time this season.

"It's time to move on," says the source. "It just feels like this is the right time to go." ABC had no comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



No regrets for Kate Hudson

RELATIONSHIPS It's been two years since she split from husband Chris Robinson, but Kate Hudson is in no hurry to walk back down the aisle, **People.com** reports.

"I don't know if I'll ever get married again," the actress recently told **Extra**. "I don't know. ... It depends on who you end up with."

Hudson, who has dated actor Owen Wilson and cycling champ Lance Armstrong since her divorce, also said she has no second thoughts about marrying the Black Crowes frontman when she was just 21.

"I don't regret a second of my marriage. ... Thank God for Chris," she explained.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Smith defends Grey's bosses

CAREER Actress Brooke Smith has defended her former TV bosses at Grey's Anatomy, insisting she has "no hard feelings" after her lesbian character was written out of the show, **imdb.com** reports.

Network bosses announced Smith would be axed from the show last month, sparking rumours she was written out of the series in a bid to end her character Dr. Erica Hahn's burgeoning homosexual affair.

Grey's creator Shonda Rhimes refuted the reports, telling **Us Weekly**, "Brooke Smith was obviously not fired for playing a lesbian. Clearly it's not an issue as we have a lesbian character on the show — Calliope

Torres (Sara Ramirez). Unfortunately, we did not find that the magic and chemistry with Brooke's character would sustain in the long run."

Actor Isaiah Washington, who was let go from the show last year, lashed out at his former bosses, calling their decision to cut Smith "disgusting."

But Smith has defended Rhimes, adding, "It's an end of a chapter. It was a good experience. I'd played gay characters before, and I don't think that's going to end. There's no hard feelings. I have other projects now, so it is what it is."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



I weigh 200: Winfrey

HEALTH In the January's **O** magazine, Oprah Winfrey confesses that she now weighs 200 pounds and has "fallen off the wagon," **usmagazine.com** reports.

"I'm mad at myself," writes Winfrey. "I'm embarrassed. I can't believe that after all these years, all the things I know how to do, I'm still talking about my weight. I look at my thinner self and think, 'How did I let this happen again?'"

In the article, Winfrey

says she has struggled with an out-of-balance thyroid and the condition made her develop "a fear of working out."

She confessed that she's packed on 40 pounds since she weighed 160 pounds in 2006. "Yes, you're adding correctly; that means the dreaded 2-0-0," Winfrey says. "I was so frustrated I started eating whatever I wanted — and that's never good."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Lohan to write of split

PEOPLE Lindsay Lohan is begging the paparazzi to stop asking her if she's split from girlfriend Samantha Ronson, assuring fans she'd write the news on her blog if they ever broke up, **imdb.com** reports.

Rumours have swirled about the couple's relationship status since they began dating ear-

lier this year. They have repeatedly denied splitting, and Lohan has once again taken to her MySpace.com blog to "prove all the liars wrong" — less than a week after slamming previous break-up reports.

"(The paparazzi) should just stop asking altogether," Lohan wrote.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Twain may be dating again

RELATIONSHIPS Singer Shania Twain has sparked reports she's dating the husband of the woman her ex is alleged to have had an affair with after the mystery man was spotted escorting Twain around New York recently, **femalefirst.co.uk** reports.

Twain split from her husband Robert (Mutt) Lang in May, following his revelation that

he was romancing the couple's longtime secretary Marie-Anne Thiebaud, who was the manager of their Swiss estate.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Jolie spends less on Pitt

PEOPLE It appears even stars are affected by the recession.

In Touch has learned that Angelina Jolie's 45th birthday present to Brad Pitt will be another motorcycle. But this year's base price on the new Ducati is \$12,000 US — much less compared to last year's gift that cost a reported \$100,000.

Still, Jolie knows what Pitt likes, **intouch-weekly.com** reports.

"She's getting him the new Ducati Monster 1100S titanium," an insider tells **In Touch**.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Anderson outfit shocks crowd

PEOPLE Pamela Anderson stunned onlookers when she arrived at a prestigious art fair wearing just a T-shirt and underwear, **femalefirst.co.uk** reports.

The actress seemed unaware of the controversy she was causing at the Art Basel Miami Beach fair, and later posed for photographs bending over paintings with her butt in the air.

METRO NEWS SERVICES





For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

Take Five

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18								19	20			
			21					22				
23	24	25		26		27		28			29	30
31			32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40		
		41			42		43		44			
45	46						47			48	49	50
51					52	53						
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

3	7					5		9
	8	6	9				3	1
1			4	3			6	
			1		3	9	7	
		8		4		1		
	1	3	5		7			
	3			5	2			8
8	2				6	7	4	
6		7					9	2

Crossword across

- 1 Malaria symptom
- 5 Bowl-shaped utensil
- 8 Vaulted alcove
- 12 Lion's share
- 13 Previous to
- 14 Litigant
- 15 Outdoor vendor's wagon
- 17 Scheme
- 18 Walk leisurely
- 19 1-Across component
- 21 Perch
- 22 Medal earner
- 23 Chart
- 26 Advanced deg.
- 28 Windsor's merry ones
- 31 Piece of work
- 33 Evergreen type

- 35 Literary sleuth Wolfe
- 36 After-dinner speech?
- 38 Runic letter (Var.)
- 40 Liotta or Romano
- 41 Burden
- 43 Bud's partner
- 45 Baffle
- 47 PC variety
- 51 Winged
- 52 Bulletin board accessories
- 54 Crooned
- 55 Indivisible
- 56 Ostriches' kin
- 57 Otherwise
- 58 Youngster
- 59 Leftovers

Crossword down

- 1 Roadie's burden, in part
- 2 Toe woe
- 3 "Back in the —"
- 4 Group character
- 5 Rich
- 6 Bobby of hockey
- 7 Sailing vessel
- 8 Headache remedy
- 9 Sweater type
- 10 Signet
- 11 Sea flock
- 16 Office holder?
- 20 Chop
- 23 Unruly bunch
- 24 Mimic
- 25 Sleeper cars

- 27 Morning moisture
- 29 Historic period
- 30 Sauce source
- 32 Cause of great pain
- 34 Established firmly
- 37 Owns
- 39 Ham's dad
- 42 Station
- 44 Top
- 45 Contemptible
- 46 Hebrew month
- 48 Opportunity
- 49 Responsibility
- 50 "Hey!"
- 53 Popular card game

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

C	A	S	T		B	E	D		D	I	C	K
O	G	L	E		I	D	O		I	D	L	E
C	O	O	L		I	D	G	E	R	E	A	D
A	G	E		F	E	Y		S	T	A	Y	S
			A	F	T		B	U	Y			
W	I	M	P	Y		C	O	M	P	A	C	T
A	V	E	R		W	A	X		O	D	O	R
D	E	N	I	Z	E	N		W	O	O	D	Y
			L	I	D		P	A	L			
D	R	A	F	T		L	E	I	T	K	O	
E	U	R	O		T	O	O	L	S	H	E	D
L	E	G	O		E	O	N		H	E	E	D
I	D	O	L		A	M	Y		E	E	L	S

6	2	7	4	9	1	8	5	3
1	3	4	5	7	8	2	9	6
8	5	9	3	2	6	4	1	7
2	8	3	6	5	4	9	7	1
7	9	5	1	8	2	6	3	4
4	6	1	9	3	7	5	8	2
5	4	2	8	1	3	7	6	9
9	1	6	7	4	5	3	2	8
3	7	8	2	6	9	1	4	5

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:	17-21 min	Smart
Under 13 min	Genius	
13-17 min	Scholar	
	21-25 min	Not bad
	25+ min	Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Chicken with Peas and Cilantro

INGREDIENTS:

- 3/4 cup (175 mL) canned crushed tomatoes
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) coconut milk
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) chopped cilantro
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) fresh lime juice
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) soy sauce
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) light brown sugar
- 3 scallions, thinly sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) minced fresh ginger
- 1 tsp (5 mL) salt
- 1 whole chicken (about 3 1/2 lbs/2 kg), cut into 8 serving pieces, skin removed
- 1 cup (250 mL) rice
- 1 package (10 oz/285 g) frozen peas

METHOD:

- 1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). In Dutch oven, combine tomatoes, coconut milk, 1/4 cup (50 mL) of cilantro, the lime juice, soy sauce, brown sugar, scallions, garlic, ginger and 1/2 tsp (2

- mL) of salt.
- 2. Add chicken to Dutch oven, turning to coat. Bring mixture to a boil over medium heat. Cover, place in oven, and bake for 40 minutes or until chicken is cooked through.
- 3. Meanwhile, in medium covered saucepan, bring 2 1/4 cups (550 mL) water to a boil. Add rice and remaining 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt. Reduce heat to a simmer, cover, and cook 17 minutes or until rice is tender.
- 4. Stir peas into Dutch oven and cook 5 minutes or until heated through. Stir in remaining 1/4 cup (50 mL) cilantro. Serve sauce and chicken over rice.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



Disbelief grows after a heated exchange. Something in the news will result in health benefits. Prepare to get up early tomorrow.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



A major life change is in the works. Prepare for a zany encounter. Be on your toes if scoundrels are around.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



Use a headache to avoid a meeting. A document causes hope to rise up. Share a friend's displeasure with a troublemaker.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



A hair-raising adventure takes place. An insulted man makes too much of a bad thing. You are subjected to the whims of fate.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



Preoccupy yourself with a thriller. You'll wonder if you're under observation. A stranger needs better medication.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



Take a careful look at a woman in red. Expect a phone call from a funny stranger. Kindness and compassion will cause a delay.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



A family gathering will come up soon. Keep your eye on a close friend. Be prepared to come to the aid of a depressed person.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



A minor crisis will be very amusing to bystanders. Don't hold your breath waiting for a reward. A surprise provides a trivial challenge.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



Don't lose out in life by lying. Rational people want help with a decision. Don't feel guilty for having an outrageous argument.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



Don't flinch when something wonderful happens. A dear friend is awaiting a divine event. People will talk about the good old days.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



Family problems will reveal a desperate wish. Be wise enough to stop when given a warning. Things will be changed before an announcement is made.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



Maintain your sense of humour at all times. Unrealistic expectations will instigate a change. Difficult decisions will have to be made.

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1. Medically mend a moray (1)
2. Schleps stoppers for sinks (1)
3. Street-smart tot tender (2)
4. Party provider's pomposities (1)
5. Baseball Babe's trail-tracking tees (1)
6. Sprays soap off of a sovereign's sons (2)
7. Finally finishing forming folds in fabrics (2)

ANSWERS
1. HEAT SEAL 2. LUGS PLUGS 3. CANNY NANNY 4. HOSTS BOASTS
5. RUTHS SLEUTHS 6. RINSES PRINCES 7. CEASING CREASING

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